CAPTAIN GEORGE'S Penny Dreadful

TORONTO, JULY 17, 1981 NUMBER 647

GARY COOPER · PATRICIA NEAL
RAYMOND MASSEY · ANNE CAMPBELL · ROBERT DOUGLAS
THE FOUNTAINHEAD
UNIVERSITY NOON to 1 p.m. 33c plus tax
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In F. SCOTT FITZGERALD'S
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COOL COMFORT
SHEA'S

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A WEEKLY REVIEW

BILL BLACK

BOY, HAND ME THAT SOAP-BOX: I had occasion the other week to find myself discussing movies with a 13-year-old. The conversation finally progressed from such "heroes" as Han Solo, Luke Skywalker and Christopher Reeve's Superman, when he turned and asked me, completely straight-faced, who MY heroes were. "...back in the days of the Magic Lantern" went unspoken, but they were there.

That gave me pause, for unlike most of my Baby Boom generation, my memory precedes my birth by about fifteen years. I "remember" people that my contemporaries have never heard of! My hesitation must have been taken for uncertainty, and he piped up: "You did have heroes back then, didn't you?" Up to that point, I had liked this kid. How do you explain, in ten words or less? It's like describing colour to a blind man.

Let's lay down a few ground rules first, I said. I think it's safe to assume that you've never heard mention of any of these people. You may be familiar with some of the characters that they portray, but as far as putting faces to names, I can show you their pictures, and even some of the films, if you want. It won't be a ten-minute conversation, but if you really want to know, I'll tell you, okay? At this point, his father put down his newspaper, and sat back. I started off with the Duke, giving him a fairly quick rundown of Ethan, Wedge Donovan, Tom Dunson, Hondo Lane, Kirby Yorke, Tom Doniphon, Sean Thornton, Sgt. Stryker, Capt. Brittles, Ole Olsen, The Ringo Kid, and John Bernard Books.

Then I moved to Flynn: Robin Hood, Captain Blood, Don Juan, Gentleman Jim Corbett, George Armstrong Custer, Captain Geoffrey Thorpe (The Sea Hawk), the Earl of Essex, and Wade Hatton, from Dodge City.

Bogey, as Sam Spade, Rick Blaine, Philip Marlowe, Fred C. Dobbs, Charlie Allnut, and the Left Hand of God.

Then we got down to cases: Spy Smasher, The Masked Marvel, Captain America, the Copperhead, the Fighting Devil Dogs, the Daredevils of the Red Circle, Dick Tracy, Nyoka, Zorro, Red Ryder, The Lone Ranger -- and I'm not talking about the Spillsbury doughboy -- and King, of the Rocket Men, the Mounties and the Forest Rangers.

The kid was beginning to look like he was sorry he'd asked, but Dad's eyes just kept getting wider and wider, and hell, I was just getting warmed up.

Rex Allen, Don "Red" Barry, Hoppy, Johnny Mack, Wild Bill Elliott, the Hooter, William S., Tim Holt, Rocky Lane, Colonel Tim, Tom Mix, George O'Brien, Ben Johnson, Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Bob Steele, Sunset, Lash, The Rough Riders, The Three Mesquiteers, the Range Busters, the Trail Blazers, and Buck!

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P-D SCRAPBOOK

RADIO LOG—TIME TABLE 1947

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2

5.30 P.M.

CBL—Just Imagine
CFRB—Hint Hunt
CKEY—Ballroom
CHUM—News
WBEN—Just Plain Bill
WKBW—Jack Armstrong

5.45 P.M.

CBL—Rural Route No. 9
CJBC—High Newsreel
CFRB—Candlelight and Silver (5.40)
CHUM—Cocktails for Two
WBEN—Front Page Farrell
WKBW—Jimmie Allen

6.00 P.M.

CBL—Victory Parade
CJBC—Walter Bowles; Clary Settell
CKEY—News; Ballroom
CHUM—1050 Serenade

6.15 P.M.

CBL—News, Farm Market
CJBC—What's Your Beef?
CFRB—Pleasure Parade
CHUM—Amateur Sports

6.30 P.M.

CBL—Serenade
CJBC—Supper Club
CFRB—Jim Hunter; Sportsviews (6.40)
CHUM—News; Serenade
CKOC—Symphony of Melody
WBEN—Three Suns

6.45 P.M.

CBL—B.B.C. News
CHUM—Design for Dining
WBEN—Lowell Thomas

7.00 P.M.

CBL—Edmund Hockridge
CFRB—Headline News
CKEY—Lorne Greene; Make Believe Ballroom
CHUM—Sports Tour
CHML—Drama for Today
WBEN—Supper Club

7.15 P.M.

CBL—Sports Today
CFRB—Jack Smith
CKOC—Barry Wood Show
WBEN—News of the World

7.30 P.M.

CBL—Michael Head Recital
CJBC—Ethel and Albert
CFRB—Mystery
CKOC—Music of Manhattan
WBEN—House Party
WKBW—Lone Ranger

7.45 P.M.

CBL—Midweek Review
CJBC—Toronto Today
CFRB—Sweet Music
WBEN—H. V. Kaltenborn
WGR—Robert Trout, News

8.00 P.M.

CBL, CKOC—String Time
CJBC—Crime Club
CFRB—Melody Hour
CKEY—On Stage
CHUM—Request Performance; Expert Opinion (8.15)
WBEN—Gramps
WKBW—Lum 'n' Abner

8.30 P.M.

CBL—Nation's Business; Labor and Business (8.45)
CJBC—Opportunity Knocks
CFRB—Summer Souvenirs
CKEY—Voice of St. John; Safety Talk (8.45)
CHUM—News; South American Way; People Who Do Things (8.45)
CKOC—Airlane Trio
WBEN—Band Concert
WGR—Dr. Christian

9.00 P.M.

CBL, CKOC—The Choristers
CJBC—Duffy's Tavern
CFRB—London Playhouse
CKEY—So the Story Goes; Baseball Game (9.08)
CHML—Band Box Review
WBEN—Jinks and Tex

9.30 P.M.

CBL—Symphony for Strings
CJBC—Eddie Albert Show
CFRB—Music to Remember
CKOC—Serenade for Strings
WBEN—Mr. District Attorney
WGR—Meredith Wilson

10.00 P.M.

CBL—C.B.C. National News; Curious Adventure (10.15)
CJBC—Phil Silvers
CFRB, CHML—The Whistler
WBEN—The Big Story

10.30 P.M.

CBL—Audrey Piggot, 'Cellist
CJBC—Latin-American Serenade
CFRB—Doorway to Life
CKEY—News and Sports; Answer Man (10.45)
CHML—Showers of Blessing
CKOC—Day's End

11.00 P.M.

CJBC, CFRB—News
CKEY—News; Mickey Lester
CKOC—Starlight Concert

11.15 P.M.

CBL—Sportsman's Show
CJBC—Christie's Wax Works
CFRB—Rainbow Rendezvous
WBEN—Joe Wesp

11.30 P.M.

CBL—Concert Music
CFRB—Invitation to Music
WBEN—Your United Nations

BILL BLACK continued

Even the bad guys were heroes ... Harry Woods, Le Roy Mason, Hal Taliaferro, Stanley Price, Francis McDonald, Jack Ingram, Kenne Duncan, Bud Geary, George Chesebro, Good Old Tom London, Anthony Warde, and the best of all the Baddies, Mister Barcroft.

Heroes, you say? And our heroes could do anything, even the non-super versions. They could fly a plane, drive a car, ride a horse, drive a stage, shoot, fight, rope, whip, crack the code, steal the plans, foil the crooks, expose the spies, get the girl, and sing a song! Heroes? Heroes?!? Yes, my boy, you could say we had heroes. We did, indeed.

It was time for my young friend to hit the sack. I'd probably bored the pants off him, but it was all worth while when he walked past his Dad. "Hey, Pop," he said. "How come your eyes are all red?"

PETE HARRIS

MOVIE MAKING: The other day, I made an interesting discovery while looking up an obscure '48 B-movie called Jungle Patrol in the Motion Picture Production Encyclopedia, one of the standard works in the Vast Whizzbang Organization Archives. The '49 edition, published by Hollywood Reporter Press, covers movies produced from 1944 to 1948, cast, technical credits, and so on. However, starting with the 1947 entries, the number of days in production was included in each case. Those numbers make for some interesting comparisons.

Take, for example, some of the major westerns released in 1948. Director John Ford had two that year -- Three Godfathers, which was 32 days in production, and Fort Apache, which took 45 days. Red River, directed by Howard Hawks, took 85 days; Silver River, an Errol Flynn western directed by Raoul Walsh, took 94 days; The Man from Colorado, with Glenn Ford and William Holden, 79; Fury at Furnace Creek, with Victor Mature, 52; Yellow Sky, with Gregory Peck and Richard Widmark, 44; Station West, with Dick Powell, 72; Four Faces West, with Joel McCrea, 52, and Whispering Smith, with Alan Ladd, 54 days.

In sharp contrast to those totals are the numbers of production days for B-Westerns. The low-budget champion in '48 was the Lash LaRue series, with such entries as Cheyenne Takes Over, The Fighting Vigilantes, Stage to Mesa City and Mark of the Lash each consuming 6 production days. And they showed it. Columbia's Durango Kid series, with Charles Starrett and Smiley Burnette, including Six-Gun Law, Blazing Across the Pecos and Buckaroo from Powder River took 7 or 8 days, although Last Days of Boot Hill came in in 6 days. At RKO, such Tim Holt westerns as Guns of Hate, Gun Smugglers and Indian Agent took 11 or 12 days; Arizona Ranger took 15 days.

Republic, of course, has always been famous for its economy of production time. In '48, Allan (Rocky) Lane starred in a series of fast-moving B's -- Carson City Raiders and Oklahoma Bad Lands, both directed by Yakima Canutt, came in at 8 days apiece, as did Marshal of Amarillo and Desperadoes of Dodge City, both directed by Philip Ford. Ford was a sluggard with The Denver Kid, however, consuming 9 production days.

Republic also exercised an admirable economy in production time with its non-western entries. Daredevils of the Clouds, Homicide for Three, Secret Service Investigator, Sons of Adventure and Train to Alcatraz took 10 days each. A little more time was devoted to what could be called Republic's "prestige" westerns. The Gallant Legion and Old Los Angeles, both with William Elliott, took 20 days each, while such Roy Rogers films as Night Time in Nevada, Eyes of Texas, Grand Canyon Trail and Under California Stars, all directed by William Witney, took 20 to 25 days each. It's easy to see where Republic's priorities were, though. The Flame, a non-western melodrama directed by John H. Auer and featuring John Carroll, Broderick Crawford and the ever lovely Vera Ralston, took a total of 38 production days.